

May 8, 2014
www.mbc.org

THE Baptist Record

Vol. 138
No. 19

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877



WRECKED — Members of the Campers on Mission organization were in Louisville working on a renovation project for a local church when the massive tornado struck the area on April 28. There were no injuries among the group but many of their camper vehicles were total losses. (Special photo courtesy of Waanda Lee)

Baptists volunteer in hard-hit storm areas

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Volunteers from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force poured into parts of Mississippi hardest hit by the April 28 tornadoes and associated storm fronts that resulted in multiple deaths over a six-state region.

Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson, serves as coordinator of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force. He said May 5 that Task Force chainsaw and debris removal teams were in Louisville, Tupelo, and other areas of north Mississippi damaged by the storms.

Didlake also said two Task Force feeding units were operational, with one situated at South Louisville Church in Louisville and another at Auburn Church in Tupelo, to meet food needs in those hard-hit areas. Trained Task Force counselors are also available in several storm areas, he added.

Didlake estimated that approximately 125 Task Force volunteers were working in affected areas. "They will be in the Louisville area about two more weeks, and in the Tupelo area about 10-15 days more."

Several Mississippi Baptist churches have assumed responsibility for leading the disaster relief effort in their areas of the state and have not requested assistance from the Task Force, according to Didlake.

Members of Campers on Mission, an organization with ties to the Men's Ministry Department, were in Louisville working on a separate renovation project for a local church when the tornado struck. As they took shelter, the tornado ravaged their camper vehicles outside. No one was injured but many of the camper vehicles on the scene were total losses.

see STORM on p. 7



WORSHIP UNDER THE SKY — Trent Jaudon, pastor of South Louisville Church in Louisville, preaches to the congregation May 4 in the parking lot of the church's facilities, which sustained major damage in the outbreak of tornadoes that occurred across the state on April 28. A number of Mississippi Baptist churches were damaged in the killer storms, including churches in Lee, Lowndes, and Winston counties. (Special photo courtesy of Jim Didlake)



CLEANUP STARTUP

— Volunteers from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force responded quickly to the devastation in Winston County caused by a massive tornado and associated storm front on April 28. Task Force volunteers continue to work on chainsaw and debris removal teams in the hardest hit areas of the state. (Photo by Tony Martin)

How can I help?

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is accepting financial donations to assist the victims of the violent weather on April 28-29. Checks should be made payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, with "Miss. Disaster Relief" noted on the memo line. The address to mail donations is Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. On-line donations can be made at mbcb.org/giving.

Inside this issue

Directions	
Sunday School lessons	
Editorial	
Bibliocipher	
How to Become a Christian	
Bible Drill	
Just for the Record	
Classifieds	

5-DIGIT-
#BNDPMX
#0000 2910 5087#
#05 DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

The gauntlet thrown

We often use words and phrases that are familiar to us but about which we may not understand the true meaning. For instance, we are all familiar with the phrase, "throwing down the gauntlet," but its origin may be shrouded in mystery for many of us. Well, here goes: Throwing down the gauntlet harks back to the days of chivalry and knighthood when long gloves or glove attachments — gauntlets — were utilized to protect a knight's forearms from being sliced open by a sharp sword during combat. Gauntlets could be metal or leather, and became so popular as a fashion statement as well as body armor that distinctive and highly ornamental versions were manufactured and sold.

Gauntlets were important in that age and reflected a knight's power and prestige. Throwing down one's gauntlet became symbolic of offering a challenge. If a knight removed one of his gauntlets and threw it to the ground, he was basically issuing an invitation to combat. If the opposing knight reached down and picked up the gauntlet, that action was seen as an acceptance of the challenge.

In the coming days, Mississippi Baptists will have an opportunity to pick up a challenger's gauntlet — not to literally engage in mortal combat but to fight as Christians for what we know to be right and good and moral. Victory or defeat in this battle could well pivot on whether Baptists in this state will unite and be heard.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC), a Washington, D.C.-based, pro-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) lobbying organization, has thrown down the gauntlet. On April 26, the group announced the formation and staffing of a Mississippi HRC office dedicated to moving the Magnolia State into full compliance with their agenda of complete and unquestioned acceptance of the LGBT lifestyle — including the right to same sex marriage on a par with heterosexual marriage.

They've already made headway here, with the city leaders of Oxford, Markville, Hattiesburg, and Magnolia bowing to their demands and declaring their cities to be LGBT friendly. That's only the beginning. There's lots more to come as HRC

has promised to take their battle to the "church pew."

"Despite the legal landscape, it's long past time that the country stopped treating the [sic] Mississippi like the 'finish line' for equality. HRC has more than 10,000 members and supporters in Mississippi, and there are countless more fair-minded people ready to stand on the right side of history," said HRC President Chad Griffin.

An April 26 HRC press release also targets Alabama and Arkansas along with Mississippi for special attention and outlines the goals of Project One America:

- Empower LGBT people and straight allies to come out.

- Raise the visibility of LGBT people and issues with the general public.

- Create safer environments for LGBT young people.

- Build partnerships with faith communities, communities of color, business communities, and conservatives.

- Create a more inclusive workplace for LGBT people.

- Build support for enduring legal protections that ensure LGBT equality.

- Expand participation in HRC's Municipal Equality Index in these three states.

- Create a more inclusive health-care environment for LGBT people.

- Equip LGBT people and non-traditional allies as spokespeople.

"Folks in these three states shouldn't have to wait a single day longer for one, fully equal, America," Griffin said.

Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, couldn't disagree more with the HRC's agenda for the state.

"Until God makes an addendum to the Bible as it is written, and changes His teachings on marriage and unnatural sexual behavior, we will continue to follow His instructions in this matter and not the warped views of man."

The Christian Action Commission has and will continue to support and fight for the biblical view of marriage as defined in the creation story of Genesis and consistently demonstrated throughout the remaining Scriptures.

The question is, will the rest of us?

Building spiritual presence

Does your life have a "spiritual presence"? What about your family? Your ministry? Your church?

We rarely pray for the very things that we say need prayer. We deliver and hear sermons and devotions that give us no opportunity for digestion or response. "We must keep moving with our agenda, our order of worship, our plan, it is said." That may be our greatest problem.

Our greatest need is to cultivate spiritual presence by spending time with the Father in prayer. Everywhere Jesus went, His spiritual presence filled the space whether a room, synagogue, boat, or wide open spaces of countryside. Seeing this, His disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1).

In so many of our ministries, there is a definite lack of seeking God and acknowledging His sovereign ability to meet our needs. This should change. Perhaps when we get desperate enough, it will.

We cannot expect God to do anything with our efforts if we, as leaders, will not do what we are asking the churches to do. It is an old principle I first learned in the 101st Airborne Division when I was in the Army, and a principle that I discovered later is in the Bible: Lead by Example.

If our greatest need is God, then let's pray together (not just individually) and invite Him into our work, over our work, to guide our work. Let's cry out to Him for our churches, our denomination, our nation, and our world.

As I attend denominational meetings, people often say that we put our trust in our programs and our abilities more than in God but when someone suggests that we commit time in every meeting to corporate prayer, those pleas often go unheeded. Have we grown so far away from God that some in leadership positions have grown uncomfortable with shepherding times of corporate prayer?

Perhaps we think, "We don't need to pray here because we are all praying away from here," or perhaps the power of personalities present seems too staggering to waste their valuable time in corporate prayer. Could it be that such times of prayer are not happening in



Guest opinion

with Jamie Work

our churches or entity staff meetings, either? Could it be that prolonged periods of God-seeking prayer are not a part of our normal routine?

When we gather for our church or denominational committee meetings, do we not have 10-15 minutes we can give to corporate prayer? We don't have time for prayer? What does that say to God?

We preachers have told our people, "If you want to know your priorities, look at your checkbook or look at your daily planner. Those are your priorities." A similar rule applies to the church, association, state convention, and the SBC and its entities: "You want to know what our priorities are? Look at our meetings. Watch what we do."

When seeking God is a priority in our private lives, corporate prayer is a natural expression of that in our public lives. A lack of prayer communicates loudly that we are more about getting on with business than we are with seeking God.

Someone may think this focus on prayer is really old school, that we need to get caught up with a more sophisticated way of doing things in the 21st century. I hope I never become that sophisticated. I need God every single moment. I have seen Him do more in our church and in my life as a result of prayer than as a result of any business meeting we have ever had.

Pastors, church workers, and denominational leaders, I urge you to do everything in your power from your seat of influence to bring seeking the Lord back to everything you do. Simply put, we need God.

Work is pastor of Candies Creek Church in Charleston, Tn., and serves on the SBC Executive Committee.

The Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbch.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbch.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbch.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbch.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbch.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbch.org



VOLUME 138 • NUMBER 19 • ISSN-0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 615 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS, Member Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Hispanic Advisory Council adjourns with report

ATLANTA (BP) — Calling Hispanic church involvement "critical" for long-term sustainability of Southern Baptists' efforts to reach the nation and the world with the Gospel, SBC Executive Committee President Frank S. Page received a report from the Hispanic Advisory Council (HAC) at its final meeting and pledged to form an ongoing council representing the numerous racial, ethnic, and language groups in the convention.

The council, encompassing Latino leaders from a broad spectrum of Spanish cultures across the United States, presented the 79-page report to Page at its March 20-21 meeting in Atlanta.

Compiled by co-chairs Bobby Sena and Daniel Sánchez, the HAC report was a "collaborative ... effort by the members of the Hispanic Advisory Council who, in turn, sought information, observations, and recommendations (through personal interviews and surveys) from consultative groups representing churches, associations, state conventions, fellowships, and SBC entities.

The report completed the council's three-year assignment.

Transforming nation

Noting that the HAC information "was corroborated and supplemented" by reports from the U.S. Census Bureau, the Pew Hispanic Center, the Barna Group, LifeWay Research, and the North American Mission Board Center for Missional Research, the report also leaned heavily on "strategic observations of the HAC members based on their in-depth knowledge of the Hispanic culture as well as their extensive ministry experiences."

Divided into five sections — knowing, evangelizing, congregationalizing, training, and mobilizing Hispanics — the report noted that "Hispanics are transforming the nation's social, economic, educational, political, and religious life." The growth and dispersion of the Hispanic population present "enormous challenges and opportunities for Southern Baptists in their commitment to reach all segments of the population for Christ," the report said.

Population rising

The Hispanic population in the U.S. and Canada grew by 48% during the first decade of this century, from 38.2 million in 2000 to nearly 52 million in 2011. The report noted that two-thirds of all U.S. Hispanics live in five states: California, Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas.



REPORT SUBMITTED — Members of the Hispanic Advisory Council, joined by Frank S. Page of the SBC Executive Committee (back row, center), gather for the council's final meeting on March 20-21 in Atlanta, concluding a three-year process that culminated with a 79-page report. Standing at far right is Ken Weathersby, SBC Executive Committee vice president for convention advancement. (BP photo)

"The rapid and widespread growth of North America's Hispanic population sends Southern Baptists a clear message that we cannot reach all of North America for Christ without making an unprecedented commitment to evangelize and congregationalize this mission field at our doorsteps," the report stated (emphasis in report).

In his oral summary, Sánchez reported that Arkansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Carolina, and South Carolina experienced the most rapid Hispanic population growth while Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, South Dakota, Tennessee and West Virginia also saw more than 100% growth in Hispanic population during the same period.

Overall, the Hispanic population grew in 3,000 of the nation's 3,141 counties. Some counties with the fastest Hispanic population growth were in the Northeast (Maine and Vermont) and far west (Montana), Sánchez said.

Strategies

Sánchez observed that relational evangelism and ministry evangelism were two of the more effective strategies in reaching Hispanics. He cited a LifeWay Research finding that 77% of Hispanics who are now evangelical believers first heard the Gospel message through a family member or

friend (45% heard from a family member; 32% from a friend; 11% from a church member).

Sánchez also reported that more than one-half of Hispanics (57%) are "willing to have a personal conversation about spiritual matters with a friend or neighbor from church."

In its Evangelizing Hispanics section, the report stated, "In light of the explosive growth of the Hispanic population and their unprecedented receptivity to the Gospel message, the HAC recommends that Southern Baptists seize the moment and design a North American-wide strategy to lead the largest number of them possible to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

Noting that two-thirds of Hispanics are bilingual or English speakers, the report urged that "all Southern Baptist churches see this segment of the Hispanic population as one they can witness to immediately without any delays," the one "most receptive to the Gospel message."

Page responds

Page, in his response, reviewed the recommendations from the 2011 Ethnic Study Committee Report adopted by the convention. That report called on all SBC entities to submit, as part of their annual ministry "data call," a descriptive report of participation by

ethnic church and church leaders in the entities' ministries and to give special consideration to the recruitment and employment of qualified individuals who reflect the diverse population of the SBC to serve in professional staff positions, as seminary faculty and as appointed missionaries.

Page pledged to keep these and other SBC commitments before all facets of SBC life and encouraged Hispanic church leaders to participate in the Many Faces of the SBC booth in the exhibit area at the annual SBC meeting in Baltimore.

In his opening remarks to the council, Page used an extended metaphor to describe the perennial tensions in an organization as large and diverse as the SBC. He noted that there are multiple "fault lines" in Southern Baptist life that create pressure points. As these tectonic plates push against each other, they can lead to earthquakes. These earthquakes reveal weaknesses, but they also reveal strengths, he said. Despite these pressure points and tensions, Page cited optimism for the future as Southern Baptists continue to submit to the Lord and experience "But God!" moments, a reference to God's intervention on behalf of Daniel and his friends reported in the book of Daniel.

Perspectives

The advisory council, appointed in 2011, was a three-year initiative appointed by Page. The report reflects perspectives from Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central American, South American, Mexican, and European Hispanic communities and first-, second- and third-generation Hispanic immigrants.

Members of the advisory council contributed to the final report as follows: Francisco Aular, Hispanic Baptists in Canada; Pedro Avilés, Hispanic Baptists in Puerto Rico; Elias Bracamonte, National Hispanic Baptist Fellowship; Yolanda Calderon and Daisy Rios, Hispanic Baptist women; Daniel Dominguez, second- and third-generation Hispanics; Luis López, Hispanic leadership training; Frank Moreno, state missions directors and leaders of Hispanic work in state conventions; Mike Gonzales, Hispanic Baptist laymen; Salomón Orellana, key Hispanic pastors; Joshua del Risco, Hispanic church planting; Daniel Sánchez, Hispanic education; Jonathan Santiago, Hispanic evangelism; Bob Sena, state Hispanic fellowships/networks; Gus Suárez, Hispanic Baptist theological education; Fermin Whittaker, executive directors of state conventions.

Baptist pastor spends Easter in Kazakhstan jail cell

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (BP) — A 31-year-old Baptist pastor in Kazakhstan found himself celebrating Easter this year from a prison cell, after refusing to pay a fine for worshipping without state registration.

The trouble began for Denis Yenenko, a Council of Churches Baptist pastor, after authorities

raided a small worship gathering in the town of Sergeyevka, according to Norway-based religious freedom monitor Forum 18. All religious activity in Kazakhstan is illegal unless approved by the state, but members of the Council of Churches Baptist refuse to register with the government as a matter of principle.

According to Forum 18, a police inspector received a report of an illegal meeting and found Yenenko and several others singing psalms without state registration. A judge fined Yenenko and fellow Baptist Sergei Lantsov one month's average wages. Like other Council of Churches Baptist members,

Yenenko and Lantsov refused to pay the fine, believing it to be unjust.

After Yenenko's legal appeal failed and he still refused to pay the fine, Judge Abai Bulatov handed Yenenko a six-day prison sentence on April 17. His family found out he had been imprisoned when police

called them several hours after the court hearing, Forum 18 reported. Police told them to bring clothes and food for him.

In their efforts to exert state control over religion, Kazakh authorities have also gone after other religious groups such as Jehovah's Witnesses and Ahmadi Muslims.

Jesus and His disciples faced storms and one of those is found in Mark 4:37-41. It was a real storm and the disciples were in a little ship out on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was asleep in the ship when the storm hit, and in this passage of Scripture there are several questions that are asked. They are the kind of questions that each of us might have anytime a storm comes.

Question One, I call a question of faithfulness. When the storm came, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" (Mark 4:38) Sometimes in the storms of life we are quick to think, maybe even ask, does God really care? Does anybody care? We know in the depths of our hearts that God's concern for us and care for us is not just to be measured in a moment of time when the winds are blowing or when we lose some physical possession or even a life is taken. Our God's concern for us reaches into every need and every dilemma that we may have. Storms do not change His faithfulness and His care for us. Note the word in Mark 4:38, "Carest thou not that we perish?" Do you care? They were anxious and upset and their question comes more as an accusation than a desire to know of His compassion. But we, like those disciples, often experience that moment when everything is out of control and we wonder does God care about me now? Absolutely, He does.

Question Two is a question of fearfulness. In verse 40 of that chapter Jesus asked the disciples, "Why are ye so fearful?" Jesus was not mad at the disciples, but He was leading them to analyze what's going on in their hearts and lives when troubles come. Anyone who has ever been in a storm, anyone who has ever heard the sound of a tornado or sat in the uncertainty during a



Directions

With Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Questions Asked in Storms

hurricane, knows that there are moments that you are overwhelmed with the power and the awesomeness of a storm and it is frightening. The sounds and the sights of a storm can be terrifying, but Jesus was reaching further into their hearts than just the fear that might grab you for a moment. He brings them to understand that He is greater than any of the terrors that will come against us.

The third question is a question of hopelessness. Jesus goes on in verse 40 and says, "How is it that ye have no faith?" Well, for the disciples, they were in a little boat in a big storm. If it goes down, what in the world are they going to do? But here is the wonderful truth that in the Lord the future is always hopeful. Things not going well in your life or your family or your church or your business? Jesus understands where we are and He knows that He can meet the need in the life of those disciples and in our lives. There is hope. There's not a point ever when we ought to stop trusting God. Trust Him and don't lose hope

when the elements aren't like you think they ought to be, or the stuff that you see doesn't make sense. Trust the Lord.

The fourth question that is asked in this storm in verse 41 is a question of limitlessness. The disciples looked at each other and said, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:41) Great question. Who is this? This is the wonderful Jesus who is our powerful Savior. Powerful to handle storms and their aftermath. Powerful to reach beyond anything that would come against us. He has no limits. Whatever comes that may seem to be great, He is greater. He is our wonderful, present Savior. Right here, right now. There are no boundaries; there are no barriers with Him. We face the storms and their aftermath with our unshakeable, ever-present, always caring about us Savior, our Lord Jesus. Our Savior is with us before the storms arrive. He is with us in the midst of the chaos of the storms. He is with us in the healing and helping and restoring after the

storms and if we were to come to the end of life in the storm, He is still with us.

So what do we do as storms come our way? One thing for sure, we can and do pray. We pray for ourselves. We pray for those who are going through storms. We pray for those who may be responding to the needs in storms. We pray for those who are seeking help beyond the ravage of a storm, but we also can be helpful. We can be caregivers. We can give of our time, energy and resources as many of you know because you have seen it and others of you have participated in Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief. Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief units have been all across the state ready to comfort or help to carry the burden of putting life together after the storms have passed. In some cases what is built in a lifetime has been destroyed in just a matter of minutes, and it will take more than a day or a week or a year to put back together. Brothers and sisters in Christ want to help one another and that help is at hand. Everyone can give something. If you are interested in sending a financial donation to help with disaster relief efforts, you may do that on-line at www.mbc.org/giving or by sending a check made payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, with "Miss. Disaster Relief" noted on the memo line. The address to mail donations is Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

The questions asked in storms? Certainly there are many, but we will look to the Lord and day by day find the answers of putting life back together and facing a new day and following the Lord as He guides us step by step.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

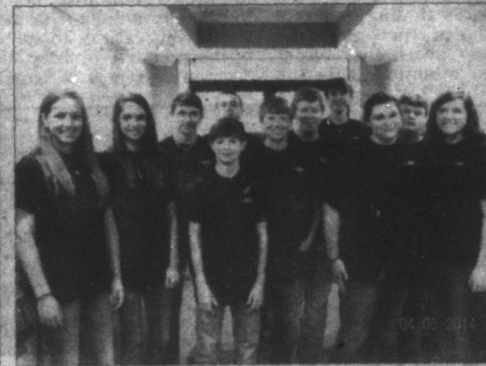
Bible Drill



FIRST CHURCH, OLOH, recognizes its Bible drillers. Shown are the Bible Buddies, the children drillers, and the youth drillers.



HEBRON CHURCH, YAZOO ASSOCIATION, recognizes its Bible drillers. Scott Sones, pastor.



NEW LIBERTY CHURCH, MORTON, recognizes its youth Bible drillers.



MEADOWOOD CHURCH, MONROE ASSOCIATION, recognizes its Bible drillers.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 8, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Senior 20 DAY 14 Retreat AGING Faithfully PSALM 100:5

TUESDAY, MAY 20

FIRST BC,
BROOKHAVEN

THURSDAY, MAY 22

FIRST BC,
LOUISVILLE

TUESDAY, MAY 27

LONGVIEW
HEIGHTS BC,
OLIVE BRANCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE
DISCIPLESHIP/FAMILY MINISTRY DEPT. AT THE MBCB
AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 284, OR 601-292-3284.

PREACHING

2014 CONFERENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

May 19

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

May 20

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

May 21

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Daniel Caldwell, Ronald Meeks, Wayne VanHorn, C. Alan Woodward

FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE
PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPT. OF THE MBCB:
601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT

CONNECT CAMPS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

Mississippi Baptist Student Connect Camps have the same quality and energy as other camps, but at a much more affordable cost. Featuring large group worship experiences, small group Bible studies, and fun activities, Connect Camps are designed to introduce students to Jesus Christ and help develop followers into mature disciples.

For Students Who Have Completed 6th grade through 12th grade.

SESSION 1: June 2 - 5 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 2: June 5 - 8 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 3: June 9 - 12 Blue Mountain College

CAMP COST: \$175 per person/Deposit of \$50 per person required

PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS OR TRANSFERS OF DEPOSITS AFTER MAY 1.

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1 AND ENDS WHEN CAMP REACHES CAPACITY.

For Registration Information, contact:

Jo Wasson, 800-748-1651, ext. 216, or jwasson@mbcb.org

For Camp Program Information contact:

Ken Hall, 800-748-1651, ext. 286, or khall@mbcb.org

Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, MBCB

I WILL GIVE YOU A NEW HEART

EZEKIEL 11:19

Margaret Lacker
OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS
MISSISSIPPI

For more information contact the Mission Strategy Dept. at the MBCB 1-800-748-1651, ext. 231

ALL FOR YOU

Surrender Sunday Series

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH
WITH WMU ANNUAL MEETING AND MISSIONS LEADERSHIP TRAINING
AUGUST 22-23, 2014
NO COST • NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED



TERRY ANDERSON
National WMU President



DERICK BRYANT
First Lady of Mississippi



CHRIS FRANK QUAST
President of the Church

SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Registration
6:30 p.m. Worship Celebration
8:00 p.m. Session 1: Conferences
9:00 p.m. 100% Girls Auxiliary Celebration

7:30 a.m. Executive Board Breakfast
8:30 a.m. Worship Celebration with Annual Meeting
9:40 a.m. Session 2: Conferences
10:40 a.m. Session 3: Conferences
11:40 a.m. Session 4: Conferences
12:30 p.m. Dismissal

For more information
contact the MS WMU
at:
1-800-748-1651,
ext. 319.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHURCH MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Registration begins February 3, 2014

Cost: \$175 (\$50 reg. fee) - Includes t-shirt and music
\$50 (\$25 reg. fee) commuter fee - Includes t-shirt and music

2 Locations:

William Carey University July 15-19
Blue Mountain College July 22-26

For more information contact the Church Music Dept. at
601-292-3267 or

www.mbc.org/departments/churchgrowth/churchmusic/events/S.M.A.C.K

HEROES
BECOMING WHO GOD MADE ME TO BE

2014 SBC Church Compensation Survey



Be part of the largest church compensation survey in the country.

- Largest, free survey of its kind
- Quick to take — easy to submit
- Results are available to all participants
- Confidentiality guaranteed

To participate, visit:

www.GuideStone.org/CompensationSurvey

Deadline is May 31!

Take the survey for a chance to win a free iPad!

For more information contact Robin Nichols, MBCB GuideStone representative at 601-292-3226

GROWING CHURCHES

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 25-26, 2014

CROSSGATES BAPTIST CHURCH
BRANDON, MS

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

www.gc2014.iconsites.com
or Contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry
Dept. at the MBCB at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 284 or 601-292-3284.



MAY 11, 2014
THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



The Mississippi Baptist Convention has designated **MOTHER'S DAY, May 11, 2014**, as a day of emphasis for the Baptist Children's Village. These monetary gifts make it possible for the BCV to continue to care for, encourage, guide and invest in the lives of deserving children. The BCV has helped families heal and children succeed since 1897. Today, children ages 2-20 are a part of families on seven residential campuses around the state. Won't you help support this ministry so these children can find faith in God and be equipped for success through healing and hope?

For more information, or to order your Mother's Day materials, please go to the BCV website: <https://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com/mothers-day-order-form>

The Baptist Children's Village is supported by the Cooperative Program.
Your dollars working for the kingdom!

Contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion Dept. at the MBCB at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 347, or 601-292-3347.

HEARTSONG MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS CAMP

FOR 6TH - 12TH GRADERS

JUNE 24-28, 2014

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

HATTIESBURG, MS

For more information contact the Church Music
Department of the Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 266,
or scuttrell@mbcb.org.



FamilyFEST is a hands-on missions project designed to help families connect with one another while doing missions/ministry together. Volunteers must be six (6) years old or older.

Cost:
\$25 per individual or
a maximum of \$100 per family
(immediate family — parents and their children)

Includes:
Registration fee, t-shirt, event insurance, some supplies, some meals.

(Additional cost will include: some project supplies, meals, and housing.)

To receive a registration packet for this event, contact the
Mid-Delta Baptist Association at mdbassoc@bellsouth.net or
662-843-8798.

FamilyFEST is sponsored by the Mid-Delta Baptist
Association in partnership with Men's Ministry (MBCB) and
Mississippi WMU (MBCB). Mississippi Baptist Convention,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Pray this day for...

May 9 – May 22, 2014.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight." Proverbs 9:10

Pray for **Tony & Denita Inmon**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Lew & Brandi Johnson**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for **Millard & Susan Jones**, missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for **John & Melinda Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through personalization, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Timothy & Rebecca Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Michael & Patricia Holyfield**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples.

Pray for **Daniel & Claudia Hood**, missionaries ministering to North African & Middle Eastern Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Bob & Amy Little**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples.

Pray for **Asbury & Jeannie Martin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Robert & Janice Mooney**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Stephen & Svetlana Parish**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Kevin & Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **John & Sarah Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through mission support, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for **Michael & Sarah Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

Are you looking for ministry opportunities in Mississippi?

Check out On Call Missions Volunteers to sign up or to request help.

For more information contact the WMU at the MBCB at 601-292-3317



STATE LITERACY MISSIONS CONFERENCE

August 7-9, 2014

Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton, MS

Theme: Meeting the Need - Acts 8:35

"Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus."

Special Guests:

Claudean Boatman

National Literacy Missions Coordinator
Colorado

Jason Dukes

Author of "Live Sent"
Booneville, MS

Glenda Rocco

Author of "ESL Lessons from the Book of Mark"
North Carolina

For more information, registration form and seminar schedule please contact Paula Smith of the MS WMU at 601-292-3336 / psmith@mbcb.org



Mr. Luke
7/4/11

Parents: D & L
Restricted

Miss Kylie
7/9/09

Parents: D & MB
Restricted

Miss Natalie N
7/10/07

Parents: Kieth & Susan
Restricted

Miss Josie M
7/13/10

Parents: C & A
Restricted

Miss Christina
7/17/01

Parents: Brad & Lenora
Last Frontier

Miss Abigail
7/17/99

Parents: D & K
European Peoples

Mr. Benjamin Worthy
7/18/08

Parents: Charlie & Shannon
European Peoples

Mr. Joshua

7/26/96
Parents: J & P
Restricted

Miss Zoe

7/30/00
Parents: C & J
Restricted

Encourage an MK with a card!



FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB-WMU MK Birthdays, P.O. Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please be sure your cards arrive in WMU prior to the first date on this birthday list.



HOUSE TOPS

CLASSIFIEDS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT. OLIVE: Mt. Olive, AL is now accepting resumes for a full-time Associate Pastor of Students & Family Ministries. Please submit resumes or questions by e-mail to Sheila@fbcmo.org.

NICELY APPOINTED 2 BEDROOM 2 BATH FURNISHED CONDO. Gulf views out most windows. Ft. Walton Beach/Destin, FL area. 404-731-5824. URL: <http://www.vrbo.com/414822>

FOR SALE: 2000 Aero Tech 3500 bus, 36 passenger, Excellent condition. Low mileage, Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Columbia, Ms. 39429, 601-736-4612 or 601-341-0665

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC. OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

NEW AND USED STAIR LIFTS, ELEVATORS. Great prices. Eldor Mobility 25 year-old company with a A plus rating with the Better Business Bureau. 1-800-682-0658. www.mylifemobility.com

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, MERIDIAN, DESIGN, FABRICATION, REPAIR. heidelbergstainedglass.com or call 800-368-2705.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-6196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren, 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

MS POSITIONS

KEMPER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Send resumes/inquiries to Dave Sanders 11361 Road 397 Philadelphia, MS 39350 or davidsanders2@yahoo.com.

MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH IN COLUMBUS, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME (25 HOUR WORK WEEK) MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Please e-mail resume to office@mtzionbaptist.com or mail to: Mt Zion Baptist Church, 1791 Lake Lowndes Road, Columbus, MS 39702.

SPLUNGE BAPTIST CHURCH (MONROE COUNTY) SEEKING BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR: Please send resumes to Splunge Baptist Church % Pastor Search Committee/Ronnie Booser 60633 Splunge Rd Greenwood Springs, MS 38848 or email to ronniebooser@gmail.com.

PATHWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH IN LAUREL (POWERS COMMUNITY) IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Traditional building, fellowship hall, and parsonage. Contemporary congregation. Send resume to Pastor Search Committee, Pathway Community Church, 15 Lawnhaven Church Rd, Laurel, MS, 39443-9203. For more info, call Mark (601)498-3205.

YALE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLEVELAND, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR. Please send resumes to Charles E Weeks, 510 University St., Cleveland, Ms. 38732, e-mail cweeks1940@cableone.net

LEMOYNE BOULEVARD BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING PERMANENT PASTOR. Please send resumes to: LBBC Pastor Search Committee, 15095 Lemoyne Blvd, Biloxi, MS 39532

FBC OF PEARL IS LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME STUDENT MINISTER. Contact Pastor Scott Crawford at pastor@fbcppearl.org.

HOLLY SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PREACHER/PASTOR. If interested please call: 601-833-8437 or 601-935-2239

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EUPORA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Learn more about the ministries of FBC Eupora at www.fbceupora.com. Please send your resume to FBC Eupora, ATTN: Minister of Music Committee, P.O. Box 268, Eupora, MS 39744.

SCOTLAND BAPTIST CHURCH, WINONA, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please e-mail resumes to hsuwall@gmail.com or call 662-417-0869 for more information.

ENTERPRISE BAPTIST CHURCH (CLARKE COUNTY) IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS/RESUMES FOR THE POSITION OF SUMMER STUDENT MINISTER (mid-May through mid-August). Email resumes to enterprisebaptist@att.net or mail to Enterprise Baptist Church, PO Box 186, Enterprise, MS 39330.

HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH, MERIDIAN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PIANIST to play for morning and evening worship and weekly choir rehearsal. Will work closely with Pastor and Worship Leader to plan worship services. Email resumes to mailto:hebronbaptist@bellsouth.net or mail to Hebron Baptist, 4795 Vinville Causeway Rd., Meridian, MS 39301.

MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales P.O. Box 1575 Ph 601-923-9947
info@msaudioilc.com Clinton, MS 39060 Fax 601-924-2880

College News



The **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** Alumni Association inducted five outstanding graduates into its Hall of Fame at an awards dinner on April 25 at Southern Oaks House and Garden. The alumni were Gerald C. "Jerry" Bracey ('87), Dr. Leo Day ('88), W. Michael Hannaford ('85), Dora Dunkley Harbin ('56), and L. Joseph Lee ('69). Shown, from left, are Lee, Bracey, Harbin, Hannaford, and Cofield.

In other College News:

► **Mississippi College's "Beacon"** magazine received two major awards from the Baptist Communicators Association at its annual meeting in North Carolina. Distributed to more than 30,000 MC alumni around the USA, the "Beacon" was honored with the grand prize or the Albert McLellan Award in the magazine design division. The magazine also picked up a first-place award in the publications division at the BCA conference in Ridgecrest, N.C. April 9-12.



Retired Army Maj. General William Suter will deliver the keynote speech at the **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** School of Law's spring commencement in Jackson. Ceremonies for 183 MC law graduates will be May 16 beginning at 10 a.m. at First Church, Jackson.



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY inducted 13 new members into its Alpha Chi National College Honor Society on April 2. Pictured are (front row, left to right) Alyssa Keyes, Ringgold, Ga., president; Rachel Grace Brown, Columbus, vice president; (second row, left to right) Lauren Thompson, Hattiesburg; Linfah Jones; Guayaguayare, Trinidad; Jennifer Williams, Memphis, Tenn.; Shaina Harkins, Bangkok, Thailand; (third row, left to right) Marah Davis, Leakesville; Haley Genberg, Warren, Penn.; Dannya Spradley, Laurel; Lauren Anderson, Puckett; Tina Robinson, Magee; (fourth row, left to right) Dolores O'Mary, administrative assistant for language and literature and Alpha Chi co-sponsor; Emily Goff, Vancleave; Chanté Musgrove, Sumrall; Bailee Hickman, Petal; Stephanie Jones, Brandon; Read Diket, professor of art and education and Alpha Chi co-sponsor; (back row, left to right) Randall Harris, professor biomedical sciences and Alpha Chi co-sponsor; Everett Roark, assistant professor of biomedical sciences; Thomas Richardson, chair of the department of language and literature, and Garry Breland, vice president for academic affairs.

CD or IRA
Maturing?

7%
First Year
GUARANTEED*



**L.D.
O'Mire**
Financial Services

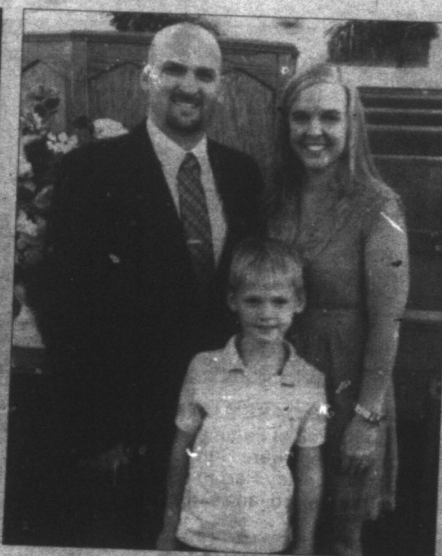
1.800.844.3254

*Guaranteed subject to the claims paying ability of the insurance company. Expiration of the contract may result in a lower rate. This is a single premium deferred annuity. Interest rates are subject to change. Withdrawals prior to age 59 1/2 may be subject to a 10% penalty.

Staff Changes



LYNN RAY ROAD CHURCH, PETAL, has called James Taylor as pastor effective Mar. 23. Shown are Taylor and his wife Jeannie.



EVERGREEN CHURCH, SHUBUTA, has called Chris Beam as pastor. He is shown with his family, Michelle and Logan.



YELLOW CREEK CHURCH, TISHOMINGO ASSOCIATION, has called Anna Bold- ing as children/youth director. She is a graduate of the Uni- versity of Alabama. Stanley Magill, pastor.

Kim: A Dying Child's Spiritual Legacy

Fred Womack stands in front of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center holding a copy of his second book, *Kim: A Dying Child's Spiritual Legacy*. Following Kim's surgery at age six in September 1977 when Womack was pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church in Clinton, the hospital was the first location where several of the Spiritual events described in the book took place. Through it all, the author learned that unless God provided comfort of a transcendent and supernatural kind, there was none to be had for him. The terminal decline and the long drawn out sorrow that followed after death served as a "Spiritual education" about God which far exceeded the father's collegiate and seminary training. The powerful supernatural help, recurrent and sufficient, almost never came in ways expected and never at times anticipated.

Publisher is West Coast Press, A Division of Thomas Nelson and Zondervan



Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

BIBL i O C i P H E R

LAUC TMKJ QUTET ECLZ LAUG, PAUC
DU AMIU XKVLUJ EW LAU TZC ZV GMC,
LAUC TAMXX DU RCZP LAML K MG AU,
MCJ LAML K JZ CZLAKCB ZV GDTUXV;
FEL MT GD VMLAU Y AMLA LMEBAL GU,
K TWUMR LAUTU LAKCBT.

QZAC UKBAL: LPUCLDUKBAL

Clue: Q = J

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke 22:69

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Treasure Mothers • Proverbs 31:10-31

Of all the holidays that are dedicated to a single person or group of people who have contributed most to our society and family, Mother's Day is by far the greatest one of all. In fact, mothers deserve much more than one day of celebration. When we think about how to describe our mothers, we always are drawn to Proverbs 31. The biblical description of a Godly wife and mother given in this passage is very intimidating. Every man dreams of having a wife like her and every child needs a mom like her. While her description seems intimidating, we must remember that she is a Godly person. Only by applying Godly wisdom in her life will any woman hope to be like her. Also remember that while this passage speaks about a wife and mother, that extends to other mother figures like teachers, group leaders, and other women who hold positions of influence. Choosing to live a Godly life is important for all women and men.

For Their Diligence (Proverbs 31:10-19)

This section of our passage deals with the industrious spirit of a Godly mother. Some of the most inventive and productive people I have ever known are mothers. From providing clothes for her husband and children to being a very savvy business woman, she deals with change

daily. There is no budget more difficult to handle than the household budget. Only through diligence to her task can she be successful. Many women who work or volunteer outside the home adapt well to the business world because they are good managers of their own households. Both the stay at home mom and the mother who works outside the home have many responsibilities, and we are to treasure Godly mothers because they approach their responsibilities with a diligent spirit.

For Their Compassion (Proverbs 31:20)

Throughout the book of Proverbs we

see that one of the marks of Godly wisdom is showing compassion to those who are in need. A Godly mother is

to be treasured because even in the midst of her busy family and/or work life, she finds time to see to the needs of others. I remember before my mom passed away, she had a very rare illness that kept her

in the hospital a lot. But even when she was not in the hospital because of her illness, she would go to the hospital to allow doctors to study her illness. When I asked her why, she said, "Maybe they can learn by studying my illness so that others will not have to suffer the way I have." A Godly mom has a compassion for others that serves as an example for all of us.

For Their Dedication to Family (Proverbs 31:21-29)

When a family is blessed with a Godly mother, the entire family benefits from her strength, character, and honorable reputation. My mother-in-law is one of the Godliest mothers

I know. Any time others find out I am her son-in-law, my reputation is enhanced because they know of her reputation. A

husband benefits from the reputation of his wife, and children benefit because she is their mother. She is the kind of parent Proverbs is admonishing sons and daughters to listen to. Her instructions are those

we need to heed so that we will not fall into sexual temptation like we talked about last week. Her instructions will help guide us to the path of life that God has set for us. She is dedicated to her family and does everything, with God's help, to meet her family's needs.

For Their Devotion to the Lord (Proverbs 31:30-31)

If we go back to the beginning of the book of Proverbs we find in chapter 1:7 these words: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." We find similar words in chapter 31:30b that are part of the description of a Godly wife and mother: "but a woman who fears the Lord will be praised." The word "fear" in this passage is a reference to a person's devotion to the Lord. The beginning of knowledge is to devote ourselves to building a strong relationship with our heavenly Father. Godly moms are to be treasured because they are good role models for their family, friends, and others to follow. The most beautiful attribute of a Godly woman is not the physical, outward appearance; it is the innermost part that is totally devoted to her heavenly Father.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education and Outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.



Explore the Bible
with Huey Dedmon

Hope Expressed • Psalm 138

What, then, should be our appropriate response to this great HOPE we have in God through Christ? Our answer must be deep, daily, abiding, humble, genuine gratitude. In Luke 17, we read that Jesus healed TEN men of their disease of leprosy. Only ONE of those TEN returned to Jesus to express gratitude. Wow. NINE simply walked away from their Healer. Today, this moment, what if you were left with only the things you had thanked God for providing? Would you need a giant rental storage unit or a thimble?

When we forget how blessed we are—taking things for granted—a certain spiritual blindness overtakes us. Satan dares. God grieves. As we fail to be thankful for the hope that is within us, we also grow callous to the fact that there are many others around us who need God in their lives. Ingratitude leads to complacency which leads to apathy which leads to...well, just finish this sentence for yourself. Several years ago, I had to face and crush my own attitude of ingratitude. Those contrite thoughts became a poem in my journal which gave birth to lyrics of a song called "Holy Free." The subtitle of what you are about to read is my own "Preacher's Kid Lament."

"It's easy to say I know You, Lord, since I've known You all my life. Sometimes I find it easy to be cold. There are times I walk right by You and never look You in the eye, rushing past the hand You give me to hold. I can quote all the words You've said. There's a plan for every man. Love is a cross I wear upon a chain. Bethlehem...The Hill...The Grave...

The time You rose again... sometimes I even think about Your pain! I feel the need to ask for forgiveness.

Lord, for leaving You behind. That's one thing I never wanted to do. If loving You is how to know You better, I want to give You all my heart...send my roots down deep as my hands reach up to You! Today, I took another look to see The Christ Who really died and lived for me. His Father's Only Son came to be the One Who would sacrifice His life that I might be "holy free" from all the sin that

had me bound to a way of life where love could not be found. I want to know You more...even better than before...but not so well that I don't know You at all."

David, the Shepherd King, knew what it meant to be thankful for the great hope found in his God. He knew what it meant to fall flat on his face in failure. He knew the tragedy of committing adultery with

"Takin' A Bath She-ba." He knew the horror of arranging the murder of her husband, Uriah, one of his own M i g h t y

Men. He knew the anguish of watching the death of his own child that had been wrongly conceived with Uriah's wife. How in the world could David express gratitude or hope through all that pain? David came to understand the grief and relief of confession and the comfort and joy of repentance. For extra credit this week, read Psalm 51 and Psalm 32 as we study Psalm 138.

In Psalm 138, we bask in the glow and sing along with David as he recounts his reasons for hope. This is a very personal Psalm. David writes as though he is speaking to God face to face. You can almost hear David saying, "God, this is between You and me. I give thanks, sing praises and bow down. God, You are as good as Your word! Your name is great! You answered me when I called! You gave me strength for boldness down deep in my soul! You alone are worthy of praise! Other earthly kings will worship You. When they hear of Your greatness, they, too, will sing. God (Big "G"), You are above all other gods (little "g"). Even as highly exalted as You are, amazingly, you regard the lowly and recognize the haughty. You have revived me in the midst of all my troubles. You stretch out Your hand against those who are against me. I am spared because of the strength of Your strong, right hand."

Verse eight is an accurate foretaste of Romans 8:28 and Philippians 1:6. "The Lord will accomplish what concerns me." Let's name that new holiday...Thanks(FOR HOPE)giving!

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland



Bible Studies for Life
with Becky Brown

STORM

cont. from p. 1

Didlake said in the aftermath of the storms last week that a number of Mississippi Baptist churches had reported significant damage, including:

■ Pleasant Hill, Columbus (Golden Triangle Association).

■ State Line, State Line (Golden Triangle Association).

■ Parkway, Tupelo (Lee Association)

■ West Jackson Street, (Lee Association)

■ South Louisville, Louisville (Winston Association).

He said the churches of which he was aware that were unable to use their facilities for

Sunday services on May 4 were South Louisville and Parkway.

The Mississippi Disaster Relief Task Force is funded by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program and the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board is accepting financial donations to

assist the victims of the violent weather on April 28-29. Checks should be made payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, with "Miss. Disaster Relief" noted on the memo line. The address to mail donations is Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. On-line dona-

tions can be made at mbcb.org/giving.

"In-kind" donations such as food, clothing, or equipment are not being accepted at this time.

For more information, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at (601) 292-3335 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335. E-mail: dvail@mbcb.org.

Just for the Record



The preschool, children, and their parents from **TUCKERS CROSSING CHURCH, LAUREL**, are shown celebrating Palm Sunday. Marshall Fitzgerald portrayed Jesus.



FIRST CHURCH, LYMAN, held a special Good Friday service with choir anthems and drama depicting the suffering of Christ. Shown with the choir are George Peterman as Jesus and Clint Herrin as the Roman centurion. Nick Weaver, worship pastor; Robby Rikard, senior pastor.



HARDY CHURCH, GRENADA, hosted a sunrise service Easter with singing, a dramatic monologue, communion, and fellowship breakfast.

in other Church News:

> The government of North Carolina has sent a mobile field hospital to Louisville in the aftermath of the April 28 tornado. A team of North Carolina Baptist Men will assemble the hospital. The hospital will be set up for up to a year.

> **Concord Church, Yazoo Association**, gave a total of \$1500 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The church's goal was \$500.

> **Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba**, is hosting its 7th annual Open Car Show May 10. Registration, 8 a.m.; judging, 1 p.m.; trophy presentation, 3 p.m.; Messiah's Men and Fishers of Men, music; love offering.

> **The Lee Association North-east MS Pastor's Conference** is May 12, 10 a.m., with Ronald Meeks and David Haynes preaching. Lunch.

> **Springdale Church, Kosciusko**, is hosting a wrestling event at the Attala County Coliseum in Kosciusko May 10, 7 p.m. There will be 5 wrestling matches followed by a word from evangelist Ted DiBiase, "The Million Dollar Man." Tickets are on sale for \$5.00 and are available in Kosciusko at Central Tire Service, Sullivan's Discount Drugs, and Kosciusko Attala Development Corp Office. Tickets can be purchased by phone from KADC at (662) 289-2981. For more information, contact Erin Sembiring at (662) 739-7292.



NORTH CARROLLTON Church presented an Easter drama. Shown are Wilton Neal as Pontius Pilate and Kyle Cravens as Jesus.



BLUFF SPRINGS CHURCH, PIKE COUNTY, presented the Easter cantata, In Christ Alone, Apr. 20.



The children's choir of **FIRST CHURCH, EUPORA**, performed as part of the Easter Sunday services.



MT. OLIVE CHURCH, BALDWIN, presented the Mt. Olive Passion Play Apr. 18 - 19. Kenneth Leslie, director; David Haynes, pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, RUNNELSTOWN, hosted their annual Easter egg hunt.